

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A process of refining marine oil including:
contacting the oil marine oil which comprises crude oil or foundation oil with an effective amount of a silica under a vacuum;
contacting the oil with an effective amount of a bleaching clay;
separating the silica from the oil; and
separating the clay from the oil.
2. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the process is performed without the use of an exogenously added alkali or acid.
3. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, consisting of:
contacting the oil marine oil which comprises crude oil or foundation oil with an effective amount of a silica under a vacuum;
contacting the oil with an effective amount of a bleaching clay;
separating the silica from the oil; and
separating the clay from the oil.
4. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the oil is contacted with silica before the oil is contacted with the bleaching clay.
5. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the bleaching clay is under a vacuum.
6. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the silica includes a silica gel.

7. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the oil is obtained from the fatty tissue of the marine mammal.
8. (Original) The process of claim 7, wherein the marine mammal is a seal.
9. (Original) The process of claim 8, wherein the seal is selected from the group consisting of harp seal, harbour seal, ringed seal, hooded seal and grey seal.
10. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the oil is obtained from the fatty tissue of a fish.
11. (Original) The process of claim 10, wherein the fish is selected from the group consisting of salmon and mackerel.
12. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the silica and clay are separated from the oil by filtration and/or centrifugation.
13. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 6, wherein the effective amount of silica gel is from about 0.01% to 3% by weight of oil.
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the oil is contacted with the silica for about 1 to 60 minutes.
16. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the effective amount of bleaching clay is from about 0.1% to 3% by weight of oil.
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the oil is heated to about 75°C to 110°C after the oil contacts the bleaching clay.

19. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the oil contacts the bleaching clay for about 5 to 30 minutes.

20. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, including deodorizing the oil.

21. (Original) The process of claim 20, wherein deodorization is carried out in the temperature range of about 150°C to 245°C.

22. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 20, wherein deodorization is carried out at a pressure of about 0.1 mm Hg to 7 mm Hg.

23. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 22, wherein the oil is exposed to the temperature and pressure of for from about 0.5 minutes to 10 minutes.

Claims 24 to 30 (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A refined marine ~~mammal oil or seal oil~~ prepared by the process of claim 1.

Claims 32 to 60 (Cancelled)

61. (Previously Presented) A method of medical treatment, therapy or prophylaxis of a disease, condition, disorder or abnormal physical state comprising administering an effective amount of the oil, of claim 31, to a mammal.

Claims 62 to 71 (Cancelled)

72. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the oil comprises crude oil ~~or foundation oil~~.

73. (Cancelled)

74. (Cancelled)

75. (New) A refined marine oil prepared by the process of claim 20.

76. (New) The refined marine oil according to claim 75, comprising at least one property selected from the group consisting of: i) a free fatty acid content below about 0.25%, ii) a peroxide value less than about 1.5me/kg and iii) an anisidine value below about 5.

77. (New) The process of claim 1, comprising contacting the oil with the silica at a first temperature suitable for the silica to remove oxidation products and phosphatides from the oil and contacting the oil with the bleaching clay at a second temperature suitable for the bleaching clay to remove colored material and proteinaceous material from the oil.

78. (New) The process of claim 77, wherein the first temperature comprises a temperature between 50°C to 85°C and the second temperature comprises a temperature between about 75°C to 110°C.

79. (New) The process of claim 77, wherein the first temperature comprises a temperature between 60°C and 80°C and the second temperature comprises between 75°C to 105°C.

80. (New) The refined marine oil of claim 75, wherein the refined marine oil comprises omega-3 fatty acids and the concentration of the omega-3 fatty acids in the refined marine oil is substantially unchanged from the concentration of the omega-3 fatty acids in the crude oil or foundation oil.

81. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the oil of claim 75.

82. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the disease, condition, disorder or abnormal physical state includes one or more characteristics selected from the group consisting of inadequate dietary omega-3 fatty acids and a deficiency of one or more essential fatty acids.

83. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the disease, condition, disorder or abnormal physical state is selected from the group consisting of heart disease,

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diabetes, hypertriglyceridemia, hypertension, arthritis, psoriasis, stroke, inflammation, immune system disorders and nervous system disorders.